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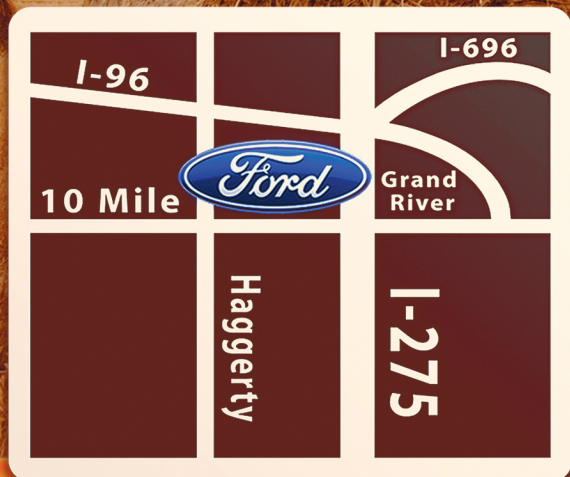
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Voice of experience

Festival president offers hints to enjoying 62nd event

Eric Joy has no plans to make any changes to something operating as smoothly as the Plymouth Fall Festival did last year.

"I'm hoping for the same kind of event this year. We changed some things up last year; moved the car show and the craft show, and it seemed to work well so we are leaving it alone this year to see if it continues to work," the president of the Fall Festival Committee said.

The event, which draws more than 50,000 people into the community during the weekend, is organized by three people, Joy said. "It's me, James Geitzen from JAG Entertainment and the treasurer Mike Richardson...well, us three and about 700 more volunteers," he said, "which means it is a really a community-driven event."



Eric Joy

"I say this every year. This is an event for and by this community. These are civic groups and volunteers. I

think that is the reason it is so successful and so popular," he said. "The Rotary Club started it more than 60 years ago and it has retained that spirit of cooperation for more than 60 years."

Joy, a man who has a long history with the event, offered a few tips for enjoying the festival, based on his eight years as a committee member and then his five years as president.

"The most important thing I could ever suggest is to use the parking and shuttle from Praise Baptist Church. Seriously, they drop people off right at city hall and they continue to run the shuttles for half an hour after the festival closes.

"People don't have to start the day off frustrated by trying to find a park-

See **Advice**, page 2



Advice from page 1

ing spot. Downtown parking is run by the charity groups, who do a great job, but they fill up fast in the mornings. If people park at the church, they ride in a nice van and it is just a better start for the day," Joy said.

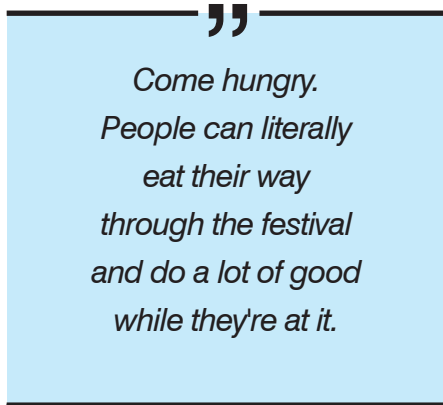
His other suggestion is for people to remember to drink plenty of water.

"Last year, I think we had one incident of heat exhaustion because the person didn't remember to drink enough water. It gets hot walking through all the attractions and booths," he said.

His third suggestion is probably the most obvious of the three.

"Come hungry," Joy said. "People can literally eat their way through the festival and do a lot of good while they're at it."

Dining opportunities begin on Friday night with the Annual Taste Fest at Station 885 in Old Village that supports the Civitans, a group dedicat-



ed to helping children and the disabled. More than 21 restaurants will be handing out samples of their best menu items, along with wine from a local shop, during the event.

There will be a live band and bar service in the landscaped lower parking lot at the restaurant, 885 Starkweather. The cost for the Taste Fest which offers unlimited access to the menu items of all 20 restaurants and a food truck is \$15 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5-10 and those 4 and

younger are admitted at no cost with an adult.

Kiwanis Club members will be serving their annual pancake breakfast at The Gathering across from Kellogg Park beginning at 7 a.m. and continuing until noon where for \$6 or \$7 diners can enjoy pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee or milk.

The A.M. Rotary Club will move into the Busch's Tent behind E.G. Nick's restaurant on Forest Avenue where members will serve a spaghetti dinner from 4-8 p.m. to help fund their charitable and civic causes in the community.

Then Sunday brings the original Rotary Club Chicken Barbeque where more than 10,000 chicken dinners are served beginning at 11 a.m. and continuing until sold out.

"The Rotary Club started it all more than six decades ago," Joy, the immediate past president of the group said, "and they know exactly what they are doing."

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Joy said his one hope, other than great weather this year, is boredom. While that may sound odd, Joy said that last year the public safety staff at the festival were actually left with very little to do, which he considers great

news.

"Last year, when I was walking around, the EMTs from Huron Valley Ambulance were yawning at the First Aid station. That, to me is a good thing," he said.

"Actually, last year, the police didn't report anything that got out of control," which, Joy said, is a real tribute to the community.

"This is all about the community and the civic groups," Joy said.

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"We've been doing it so long, I can't remember when we started," Scott LaRiche, Lou's son, said.

In addition to the Fall Festival, the LaRiche dealership supports youth baseball, community theater, life-saving blood drives, literacy campaigns and the Thin Blue Line of Michigan (a police support organization) among other worthy efforts, including the Miracle League of Plymouth, a charitable organization that gives children with mental and physical disabilities an opportunity to play baseball as a team member in an organized league.

They support many other efforts, too, most of them, as usual, under the radar and without any fanfare.



Lou LaRiche



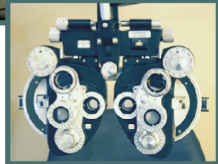
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"We feel fortunate to have a business in a community like Plymouth. Giving back to the community is ingrained in my father," Scott LaRiche said.

When Lou LaRiche first opened his dealership in Plymouth in 1970, it was a dream come true for him, LaRiche said. "He had always wanted a Chevy dealership."

LaRiche, 85, had been operating a Volkswagen dealership in Findley, Ohio, before learning he had been successful in obtaining a Chevrolet business in Plymouth. He followed his father and his brothers into the automobile business in Cleveland where they sold Oldsmobiles, Fords, Buicks and LaRiche's ideal car, Chevrolet.

The first Lou LaRiche Chevrolet dealership was located in what is now downtown Plymouth and later moved to the much larger current location at Plymouth and Haggerty roads.

LaRiche was described by his son as "a very young 85."



Steven LaRiche, front, sits next to his grandfather, Lou LaRiche, in a new Corvette as Scott LaRiche looks on. The three generations of automotive men work together at the Plymouth Chevrolet dealership which sponsors multiple community events. Photo by Dave Willett

"He still comes in to be sure we are all working hard," Scott LaRiche said. That supervision includes checking up on Scott's son, Steven, who now works

at the dealership with his father and grandfather.

See **LaRiche**, page 6



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LaRiche from page 5

"He's a fourth-generation car guy," LaRiche said. "My dad loves having him here."

The LaRiche family's community involvement isn't limited to helping altruistic and civic projects financially, however. While the entertainers perform on the Fall Festival stage he funds, Lou Lariche will be delivering barbecued chicken dinners on Sunday.

"My dad will be working all day during the Rotary Club Chicken Barbeque on Sunday, handing out dinners. He'll be there from the time they start until the chickens are gone," LaRiche said.

Both Lou and Scott LaRiche are long-time Plymouth Noon Rotary Club members and Scott will be manning one of the huge grills cooking chickens on "Chicken Sunday."

"I will be on the West Pit, that is of course, the best pit," LaRiche said, admitting that there is a serious competition among the Rotary cooks on the



Lou LaRiche points out some of his favorite family photos and Chevrolet models in his office at his dealership in Plymouth. Photo by Dave Willett

East and West designated grills.

"On a serious note," LaRiche said, "We don't take being in Plymouth lightly. As a community-oriented dealership, we have become more than just a

local business, we're part of the fabric of the community. We feel it's important to give back in as many ways as possible. This community has given a lot to us."

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Rock stars

Rotary Club leads restoration of historic monument

Christina Vega had no idea two years ago that a conversation with a couple visiting the cigar shop in Plymouth where she works would have such a lasting impact on her personally and the entire Plymouth community.

The couple, on vacation from Plymouth, England, explained that the trees presented by a visiting delegation from the City of Plymouth in 1967 were still flourishing in their home town. They remarked, too, that the visitors from their native city, including the Lord Mayor of London, presented a piece of American and English history to the City of Plymouth. Fifty years ago, those visitors from England brought a piece of rock from the steps leading to the famous Plymouth Rock in their country, the historic area from which the original pilgrims departed for America more than 400 years ago. The exchange visit was part of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the City of Plymouth. Vega said she was somewhat taken aback as she had never heard of such a historic relic after having lived in the city for more than a decade at that time and working at La Casa Plymouth, where she met the visitors, for 15 years.

"Here are these people from England telling me things I didn't know about my own town," Vega said. She pursued the situation and soon discovered that the English couple's information was accurate. The symbolic rock, along with an engraved brass plaque commemorating both the exchange visit of the Lord Mayor of London and the history of the artifact, was in an unprepossessing spot on Main Street beneath a tall pine tree, between the front doors of the library and Plymouth City Hall.

The monument showed the effects of the five decades since it had been dedicated. It was dirty, weather beaten, much the worse for wear and obviously



Incoming Rotary President Christina Vega, left, and Rotary Club member Plymouth Library Director Carol Souchock dig into the restoration project of the Plymouth Rock monument. Photo by Dave Willett

in need of some maintenance. Despite that benign neglect, the inscription and the significance of the rock impressed and moved Vega, she said. She decided such an important piece of American history here in her own community deserved more respect, and care.

"I thought something needed to be done, to at least clean it up a little," Vega said. She began asking other city residents if they knew about the rock, and most had no idea it existed.

One of the people she asked about the rock was Plymouth District Library Director Carol Souchock, a fellow member of the Plymouth Noon Rotary Club, who agreed that a symbol of American heritage this significant deserved some intervention.

"The timing couldn't have been better," Vega said, "as the library was

undergoing renovation and a lot of construction was going on."

It took them two years, but Souchock and Vega were determined to restore the 50-year-old monument.

Vega approached City Manager Paul Sincock who encouraged the project and offered to have the DPW clean the stone and brass plaque.

Souchock and Vega approached the architects from Merritt Cieslak Design who were involved at the time in the library renovations, explaining the importance of the neglected international gift. The architects took a look and agreed to donate plans for integrated LED landscape lighting and a handicap accessible brick paver walkway to the monument.

Vega then approached her fellow members of the Noon Rotary Club

where she has been a member for 12 years and suggested that perhaps the club could help fund the lighting of the Plymouth symbol as a civic project. She said she was overwhelmed with the response she received. The club officers not only agreed to fund the lighting of the project, but several club members agreed to exceptional in-kind contributions.

Unilock, the manufacturer of paving products, prompted by the significance of the monument, donated the needed pavers for the walkway and Rotarian Paul Opdyke of Serene Landscape Group, a local beautification company, donated the necessary labor to install the path. Tim and Eric Joy of Christensen's Plant and Hardscape Center, also long-time Rotarians, donated the transportation of the pavers from the manufacturer to the Plymouth site, which was no small obstacle to the project.

"We had the pavers donated, but we had no way to get them here until the Joys said they would do it," Vega said.

Installation of the LED ground lighting was the first step, Vega said, and Opdyke's staff completed the paver installation when the lighting was operational. She said she and Souchock were delighted to find the project nearly complete by the end of August.

"I can't say enough about Carol Souchock's involvement

See **Rock**, page 10





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Rock from page 9

in this project," Vega said. "She was instrumental in making this happen. It wouldn't have happened without her."

Vega, 36, is the incoming president of the Noon Rotary Club and while she said she has always been impressed with her fellow club members, this project demonstrated to her just how civic minded and generous her fellow Rotarians really are.

"It is amazing what these people can and will do for the community," she said.

The official celebration of the renovated monument is set 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8 just as the 62nd Fall Festival opens.

Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer, all the contributors and city officials are expected to be on hand for the event.

"I think it is really great that the celebration can be part of the Fall Festival," Vega said. "This is such an important part of the community."

Popular craft show returns

Returning again this year to Main Street between Penniman Avenue and Church Street will be the Plymouth Fall Festival Craft Show where vendors will display and sell their handcrafted, original wares.

The craft show will be open from noon until dusk on Friday, Sept. 8, from 9 a.m. until dusk on Saturday, Sept. 9 and from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 10. The show, organized by Colleen Brown, includes items of all kinds including jewelry, which is limited and carefully selected, along with items like scarves, handmade soaps, baked goods, jams, cheeses, handbags and other unique merchandise.

Vendors are required to submit photos and descriptions of their



work before they are accepted at the craft show during the festival.

The craft show is always one of the most popular attractions at the Fall Festival where artisans offer unique items for sale.



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Carol Souchock - Plymouth District Library (Rotarian), at left, Shaun Breuer - Unilock, Eric Lloyd - Serene Landscape Group, Paul Opdyke - Serene Landscape Group (Rotarian), Steven Schneemann - Merritt Cieslak Design, PLC, Paul Sincok - City of Plymouth (Rotarian), Chris Helinski - City of Plymouth, Eric Joy - Christensen's Plant & Hardscape Centers (Rotarian)
Not pictured: Kent Early - Rotary President, Christina Vega - Rotary President Elect

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Praise be

Church offers free parking, shuttle service to festival

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James Hooper, chairperson of missions and outreach at Praise Baptist Church, said the shuttle service and parking has been without any untoward incidents during the years the church has been providing the service.

"Many of the folks we shuttle are

families who return every year once they discover how easy and convenient the service is," Hooper said.

The rides are provided in a new, large passenger van driven by congregation members and there has never been a safety issue, Hooper said.

He added said that many of the riders are volunteer workers at the festival who really appreciate not having to find parking places.

The shuttle picks passengers up at Praise Baptist Church located at 45000 North Territorial Road, about a quarter mile west of Sheldon Road. From there, the new shuttle bus will transport visitors to the drop-off loca-

tion, adjacent to Plymouth City Hall in downtown, where the festival will be under way. Passengers will enter and exit the van right on Main Street, Hooper said.

The vans run about every 20 minutes or so, or whenever there is a need and according to Festival President Eric Joy, will continue to operate for a half hour before the festival begins each day and a half hour after the festival closes.

Festival hours this year are noon until 11 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 8, from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9 and from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 9.

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Sensible solution

Recycling included at Rotary Club Chicken Barbeque this year

Things haven't changed too much at the annual Rotary Club Chicken Barbeque during the past 61 years.

Until this year; that is.

Richard Eisimiger, chairman of the Rotary Chicken Barbeque this year has introduced some innovations at the traditional event. The dinners will still contain a half chicken, seasoned with the secret spices developed by the club members decades ago, corn on the cob raised in a nearby farm, chips, a roll, a cookie and a bottle of water. The menu items that bring 10,000 people back to the once-a-year barbeque on Chicken Sunday haven't changed, but Eisimiger and his seven-member committee, including past chairman and advisor Jeff Stella, are determined to make improvements in



Richard Eisimiger

the efficiency and quality of the meals. This year, the committee has

assigned volunteers to quality control of the meals. Their task, under the direction of the committee members, is to ensure that the ears of corn are perfect, the chicken cooked to the exact temperature necessary and that the meals contain everything they should, and nothing else.

"We had some of the teen volunteers who thought it was entertaining to throw three cookies in a dinner or add an extra corn. We want the meals to be consistent and be exactly what people have come to expect," Eisimiger said. "So, the quality control people are really important this year."

The other change in procedure is the planned recycling of all the waste

See **Barbeque**, page 14



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Barbeque from page 13

from the meals on Sunday, something Eisimiger suggested and has long promoted.

"We are going to recycle the boxes, the napkins, the plastic, the bones from the chicken and the cobs from the corn," he said. "The bones and cobs will be turned into fertilizer and the other items into other usable materials."

"This just seems like a common sense issue to me. We buy all this stuff and turn it into trash and haul it to a landfill when we can turn around and give it right back to the manufacturer to be reused," Eisimiger said.

A spokesperson from the Schupan and Sons Recycling in Wixom addressed the issue at a Rotary Club meeting earlier this year, explaining the importance of controlling the amount of trash produced by residents. Barbeque Committee members Mike Muma, Kent Early, who is also



The Rotary Club Chicken Barbeque Committee is ready for the Sunday event.

president of the Rotary Club this year, Ken Jenkins, Brandon Bunt, Gary Stolz and Andy Savage and Stella agreed with Eisimiger's suggestion and will attempt to manage the first-time recycling effort at the barbeque this year.

"We hope it works well and we hope it remains in place," Eisimiger said. "As I said, it just seems like a common sense practice to me."

Eisimiger has been a member of the Noon Rotary Club for 9 years and joined the barbeque committee 7 years ago. Each chairman serves in each capacity on the committee for one year before advancing through the ranks to committee chairman. "It has been a full 7 years," Eisimiger said. "I learned to do it all."

See **Barbeque**, page 16



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The Rotary Club of Plymouth

Rotary
Club of Plymouth



62ND



CHICKEN *Bar-B-Que*

Sunday, September 10, 2017

Kellogg Park in Downtown Plymouth, Michigan

11:00am - until SOLD OUT

\$12.00 Presale \$14.00 Day of

Tax Included

DRIVE THROUGH PICKUP AVAILABLE AT

Sheldon and Ann Arbor Trail

Barbeque from page 14

A Canton Township resident, Eisimiger owns Rich Realty Group on Main Street in Plymouth where his office has been located since 1991. He has even drafted his wife of 37 years, Keri, into helping when extra hands are needed at the Sunday barbeque.

"Yes, I had her counting out the raw chickens before they went onto the grills," Eisimiger said.

At press time, Eisimiger said he felt things were working well toward the big day. The club members and some volunteers had already performed the annual cleaning of the grills with the help of the city DPW. The grills are scoured, scrubbed and carefully sanitized every year before being used in the huge pits which are built Saturday night from cement blocks filled with sand and then charcoal.

Early Sunday morning, usually about 6 or so, the "smoke eaters" start lighting the charcoal to ensure the cor-



rect temperature for grilling the chickens. The chicken is kept in refrigerated trucks and placed on the grills while volunteers clean more than 10,000 ears of corn for the dinners.

"It's like a military operation," Eisimiger, 57, said. "The Rotary Club was doing this for 4 years before I was born. They know exactly what they are doing."

Tickets for the famous chicken din-

ners are \$12 if purchased in advance from any Rotary Club member; or at a ticket booth on Main Street during the festival. Dinners are \$14 if purchased the day of the event. Dinners are picked up at The Gathering, across from Kellogg Park or at a drive-through located at West Middle School at Sheldon Road and Ann Arbor Trail. Dinners are served from 11 a.m. until sold out.



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Step in time

Prestigious Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps appears annually at festival

They've traveled the country, performing at sites many only read about in history books, but the young musicians from the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps always return to celebrate the Fall Festival in their home town.

This year, as has become a tradition, the musicians will bring a taste of history and patriotism to the festival with their performance on the Main Stage in Kellogg Park at noon on Saturday.

This is the 46th performance season of the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps, a group of young musicians, ranging in age from 12 to 18. The group members wear red and blue uniforms, authentic in every detail to those worn by the commander in chief's personal life guard of 1776 through 1783. Their music is also authentic to the 17th cen-



tury, with some modern twists, and is the same as that heard by many famous names in American history. The corps musicians will appear after

their most recent performance tour, during which they performed at historic sites in New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland.



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The Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps is a non-profit organization of students from Plymouth and surrounding communities, and members are dedicated to preserving the ancient arts of color guard, fife and drumming. These dedicated students practice year round and average 40 to 50 live performances each year, including parades, patriotic celebrations, and other civic events throughout Michigan.

At the close of the summer performance season, the corps travels to perform at historic landmarks across the country. This year, the group performed in Fort Ticonderoga, New York; Washington Crossing Historic Park in Pennsylvania, which is where George Washington crossed the Delaware River and turned the tide of the Revolutionary War in 1776; Fort McHenry in Baltimore, where in 1812, the words to the Star Spangled Banner were inspired; the Historic Maryland State House, which is the oldest state capitol in continuous use, dating to 1772; the Annapolis Maritime Museum and the United States Naval Academy.

Members of the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps hope the enticing aroma of freshly roasted almonds coming from their booth on Main Street next to Kellogg Park will tempt Fall Festival patrons to support their organization by purchasing the treats. The group does not receive any funding from the school system or the government, and the roasted almond sales help subsidize operating costs and activities.



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October 21

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November 10

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December 14

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ON THE Stage

Plymouth Fall Festival 2017 Lou LaRiche Chevrolet stage Kellogg Park

Friday, Sep. 8

7 p.m. Global Village

Saturday, Sept. 9

9 a.m. Optimist Pet Show.
11 a.m. PCEP Dance Team
Noon Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps
1 p.m. Lions Club Leader dogs
Come celebrate the 75th anniversary
of the Lions Club Leader Dogs.
2 p.m. Forever After Productions/Dance Beat
3:30 p.m. The Plymouth Library Presents Cirque Amongus
*If inclement weather the program
will be moved to the Plymouth District Library.
4:30 p.m. Polish National Alliance Centennial Dancers
5:30 p.m. Main Street Opera Theatre
7 p.m. Power Play Detroit

Sunday, Sept. 10

11 a.m. Midwest Tae Kwan Do
Noon CORE Nutrition and Fitness
Cardio Kickboxing, Tabada, and Cardio Drumming
1 p.m. PCEP Choir
3 p.m. Chiefettes, Saber Team, Rocket Pompon Squads
4 – 6 p.m. Acoustic Madness Band

Schedule of Events

Fall Festival Hours

Friday, Sept. 8 Noon until Dusk
 Saturday, Sept. 9 7 a.m. until Dusk
 Sunday, Sept. 10 9 a.m. until 6 p.m.

FRIDAY Sept. 8

Carnival opens with rides and games at 3 p.m.

Craft Show opens at noon - dusk

Civilians Taste Fest 6-8 p.m.

Station 885 restaurant

885 Starkweather Old Village

Bingo 6-9 p.m. at the Gathering

Social Bones

8 p.m.-midnight

E.G. Nick's Party Tent

500 Forest St.

SATURDAY Sept. 9

Carnival open with rides and games at 11 a.m.

Car Show

Craft Show opens at 9 a.m. - dusk

Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast

7 a.m. - Noon

The Gathering, across from Kellogg Park

Optimists Club Pet Show

9 -10:45 a.m. Kellogg Park Stage

A.M. Rotary Club Spaghetti Dinner

4-8 p.m. Tent behind E.G. Nick's 500 Forest St.

Serious Jack

8 p.m.-midnight

E.G. Nick's Party Tent

500 Forest St.

SUNDAY Sept. 10

Carnival opens with rides and games at 11 a.m.

Car Show

Craft Show opens at 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Rotary Club Chicken Barbeque 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 or until sold out

The Gathering Kellogg Park



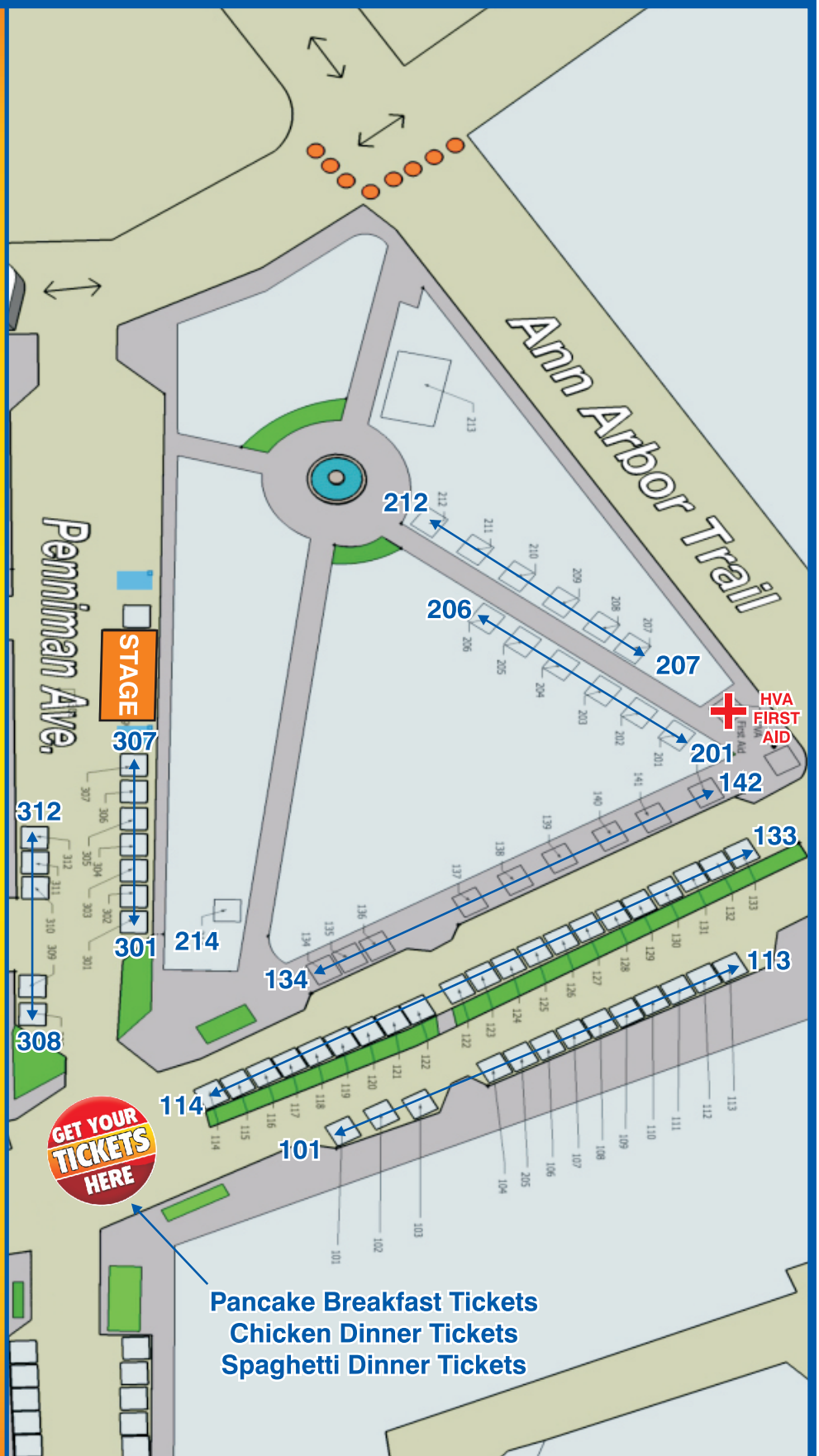
MAP KEY

Main street booths

- 101
- 102 Dotto Family Chiropractic
- 103 US Army
- 104 St. John Providence
- 105 WeatherGard Windows
- 106 High Velocity Sports
- 107 Brand Muscle
- 108 Brand Muscle
- 109 Window Pro
- 110 Sleep Number
- 111 Faygo
- 112 Bath Planet
- 113 Raymond James
- 114 Polish National Alliance Dancers
- 115 Polish National Alliance Dancers
- 116 Ice
- 117 Tables
- 118 Tables
- 119 Tables
- 120 Ice Cream Truck
- 121 Ice Cream Truck
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- 122 Comcast
- 123 Comcast
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- 126 Boy Scouts
- 127 Boy Scouts
- 128 Veterans
- 129 Veterans
- 130 Lions Club
- 131 Lions Club
- 132 Greek Orthodox Church
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- 136 Fife And Drum Corp
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- 138 Plymouth-Canton Choir Boosters
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- 140 Education Excellence Foundation
- 141 YMCA
- 142 Civitan Club

Park Booths

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- 202 Renewal By Andersen
- 203 Living Word Church
- 204
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- 206
- 207 Brackney Chiropractic Health
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- 213 Nina's Boutique



Batter up

Annual Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast is Fall Festival tradition

Some of the earliest arrivals at the Plymouth Fall Festival every year are members of the Kiwanis clubs who begin preparing for the Annual Pancake Breakfast at 5 a.m. Saturday morning.

Members of the two clubs, the Plymouth Kiwanis Club, which meets in the morning and the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth, which meets at noon, combine their efforts annually at the Pancake Breakfast during the Fall Festival.

According to Mark Riegal, a member of the club, not much has really changed during the four decades the club members have been raising funds to nurture and protect children, help those with handicaps lead fuller lives and assist the needy in the community.



The fluffy pancakes are made from the same recipe and the sausage comes from the same supplier. One change, he said, requires a thank you to another service club in the commu-

nity.

"We do owe a real thanks to the Plymouth Rotary Club," Riegal said.

See **Kiwanis**, page 24

PLYMOUTH KIWANIS FOUNDATION

Pancake Breakfast



**Saturday
September 9, 2017
7 AM to Noon**

Located under the Gathering across from Kellogg Park and next to the Penn Theater.

\$6.00 in advance

\$7.00 at the door

Children 5 & younger FREE
with adult purchase

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Mark Riegal 734-718-6176

or email markriegal@gmail.com

Buy Tickets at the Festival Ticket Booth at Main Street and Penniman Friday Noon to 10 p.m.

Kiwanis serves the children of the world. The Plymouth Kiwanis Foundation is large supporter of local individuals in need, including Michigan Mott's Children's Hospital, local scholarships at PCEP, First Step, Salvation Army, Kids Against Hunger, and the Key Club at PCEP.

Kiwanis from page 23

"About three years ago, they began allowing us to use their refrigerated truck so we didn't have to rent one on our own. That helped us financially with the breakfast."

Both the noon and morning club support the Kiwanis International, a 501c3 organization which is managed by a local eight member board of directors, four from each club.

Last year, the Kiwanis raffled a dinner for two anywhere in the world as a fundraiser and was subsequently able to give away more than \$30,000 to local community groups keeping with their mission to help others, especially children.

Riegal said that the Kiwanis donated funds to First Step; The Salvation Army; awarded two student scholarships, donated to the Michigan Rollin Pistons Challengers, a wheelchair basketball team; Special Olympics; Miracle League of Plymouth;



Seedlings, a children's Braille book; Kids Against Hunger; the Methodist Children's Home Society and Vista Maria.

"All of these groups are true to our mission and our contributions were carefully thought out," he said. Donations to the various groups varied from \$1,000 to \$2,500 he said.

The pancake breakfast he said, was a great way for the Kiwanis to show the community what the group does and promote volunteerism.

"We often have people at the breakfast ask how they can help, and we never turn them down," he said.

Tickets for the breakfast are priced at \$6 if purchased in advance and \$7 if purchased at the event. Children 5 and younger are served at no cost with an adult. Tickets are available at the festival ticket booth at Main Street and Penniman.

For more information about tickets or Kiwanis membership, call Riegal at (734) 718-6176.

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Veterans groups man tent, annual booth

The Plymouth VFW and Vietnam Veterans of America will return to the Plymouth Fall Festival this year as the groups have for nearly three decades.

In addition to their regular beverage and memorabilia tents on Main Street, the groups will host a car show and provide security at the Friday and Saturday night party tent.

Veterans will be selling soft drinks and water at the Main Street tent, and will also have hats, pins and other military memorabilia for sale.

They will also have the popular dog tag machine on site, where folks can purchase a custom-made dog tag to remember a family member who served in the military. All proceeds are used to help fund services for veterans.

The Vietnam Veterans Chapter 528 members will be checking identifications at the Party Tent in the parking lot behind E.G. Nick's restaurant on Forest



Street on both Friday and Saturday nights. All proceeds from the minimal cover charge at the tent, where there will be live entertainment and beer and wine service, is donated to the veterans group.

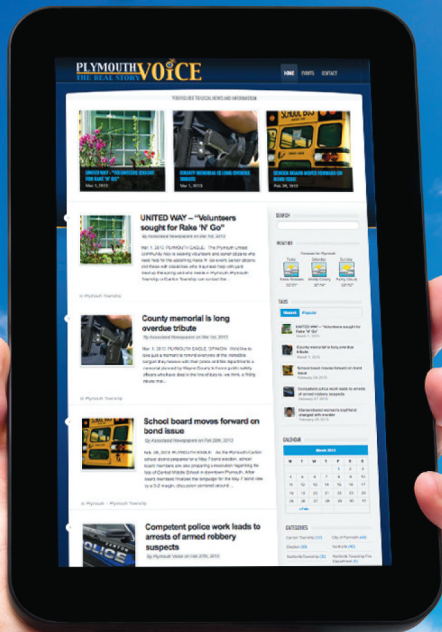
The VFW Chapter 6695 will also host the annual Car Show for the 7th consecutive year during the weekend festival. The vehicles will be on display at Forest and Wing streets. Entries of antique or

classic cars will be accepted during the festival and printable entry forms are available on the Plymouth Fall Festival website. There is a nominal fee to enter and awards will be presented to winners in various classifications.

The local Vietnam Veterans Chapter 528 will also be hosting a special event at the end of the month.

The 50th Commemorative Picnic will take place Sept. 30 at the Plymouth

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VFW Post 6695, located at 1426 S. Mill St. This event is free to all Vietnam veterans, and their families, as a way to say thank you for their service. A barbeque and family activities will be included at the event.

There will be information about Hepatitis-C, Agent Orange and other medical conditions available along with facts about benefits, veterans' services and an Honor and Remember Flag Ceremony.

The highlight of the event is expected to be the presentation of 50th Vietnam commemorative pins by Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Charles Kettles. The pins will be presented to every Vietnam veteran who attends.

There will be military equipment on display outside, games for all ages, apple cider and fresh donuts in the morning, and the barbeque from 1 until 5 p.m.

For more information, call the Plymouth VFW Post at (734) 459-6700.



Cirque Amongus performers.

Show offs Circus acts to perform on Saturday

They juggle, ride atop rolling barrels and balance themselves in precarious and sometimes awkward positions.

And those are the audience mem-

bers.

During the Fall Festival this year, the Friends of the Plymouth District

See **Library**, page 28


CIRQUE AMONGUS
DISCOVER THE BIG TOP WITHIN

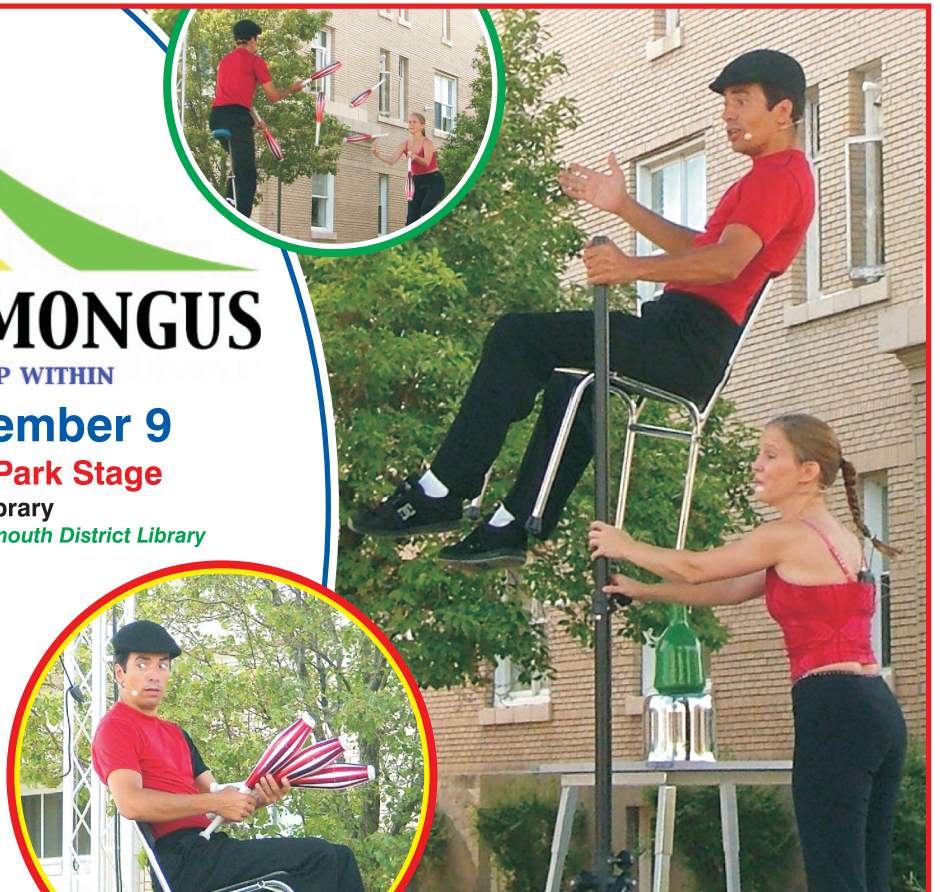
Saturday September 9

3:30 pm on Kellogg Park Stage

Rain Location - Library

Sponsored by the Friends of the Plymouth District Library


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Library from page 27

Library are bringing the Livonia-based Cirque Amongus to the Main Stage in Kellogg Park at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9.

Professional entertainers and skilled instructors, teachers and volunteers introduce audience members of all ages to the fundamentals of circus arts, juggling, movement and balancing, in a safe fun-filled environment. Audience members are transformed into circus arts performers and do things they never thought possible, a Cirque Amongus spokesman said.

The group does hundreds of shows annually and visits schools to help teach children self esteem by helping them take on unique challenges, like circus acts.

Library Director Carol Souchock said she has seen the performers previously and is confident the Plymouth audiences will enjoy the show.

"The show is a surprising combina-



tion of comedy, circus skills and audience participation, featuring a display of teamwork and perseverance guaranteed to amaze," she said. "It is entertainment for the whole family."

In the event of rain, the show will be moved just down the block from Kellogg Park to the library.

"We are delighted that the Friends are making this event possible," Souchock said. "We are excited to join the community in this annual Plymouth tradition - the Fall Festival."

The library is located at 223 South Main St. in Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 453-0750.

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Serious fun

Traditional Party Tent helps veterans, entertains crowds

It's a lot of fun with a serious benefit.

As has become a tradition, the huge tent behind E.G. Nick's restaurant on Forest Street will be the place to find a good time after activities at the Fall Festival have closed for the evening Friday and Saturday.

Frank Agostini and Toni Belli will fill the tent with live music, beer and wine service from 8 p.m. until midnight both nights and let the good times take over.

"It is always a great time," Agostini said. "We really do enjoy it. It's just one big party and everybody enjoys the music, and just has a good time."

The Party Tent started several years ago due to the overflow crowds in the bar at the restaurant. Agostini and



Serious Jack

Belli decided to try the tent as a venue for the crowds and provide live music.

In addition to having a great time, the party provides a serious benefit to

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the Plymouth-Canton Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter 528. The veterans will be on hand, checking identification to ensure that party goers are 21 or older and collecting the \$3 cover charge.

"That cover charge all goes to the veterans. If we can do some good for these guys and repay their service a little, well that's what we want to do."

Agostini said that while the cover charge is minimal and goes to the veterans' groups, it isn't unusual for folks to donate more at the door.

"This year the Friday night band will be Social Bones, a band started in 2010 from various incarnations of the renown Baked Potato band. The live show includes improvisational jams weaving one song into another, creating a live experience for fans.

Social Bones covers classic rock to modern rock, blues, reggae, country, disco, soul, funk and bluegrass.

Each member of Social Bones is also a songwriter and the band usually



Social Bones

performs some original music.

Serious Jack will take over entertainment in the Party Tent on Saturday, Sept. 9. The band has been performing throughout the Detroit Metro area for almost a decade as a six-piece rock, dance band fronted with a female singer.

Comprising seasoned musicians from a wide variety of musical styles, the band covers a wide mix of rock n'

roll, funk, and light jazz along with smooth vocals to entertain a diverse crowd.

"We're going to have a great time," Agostini said.

E.G. Nick's is located at 500 Forest Ave. and the Party Tent is always located in the parking lot behind the building which can be accessed from Harvey Street. For more information, call (734) 414-6400.



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Dishing it out

Restaurants donate specialties to Civitans Taste Fest

No matter what visitors to the Fall Festival might have a taste for Friday evening, they are sure to find it at the annual Civitans Taste Fest.

This year, more than 21 restaurants will offer some of their finest menu items, all to benefit the work of the Plymouth Canton Civitan Club. The event, which has become the traditional opening of the Fall Festival, will once again take place in a huge 40 by 120-foot tent erected in the landscaped and manicured lower parking lot at Station 885 restaurant in Old Village from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8.

Rob Costanza, owner of 885, has been helping the Civitans organize the Taste Fest for five years and donates heavily to the organization.

"They do so much good in this community," Costanza said. "Really, this is such a good cause and these restaurants every year just knock themselves out with the dishes they bring."

Costanza has also booked one of his favorite bands for the evening, Paul Hicks and the Classics, and will have them continue on after the Taste Fest so people can enjoy the music and bar service until 11 p.m. in the outdoor patio-like atmosphere created by Serene Surroundings Landscape Group.

The cost for the Taste Fest which offers unlimited access to the menu items of all 21 restaurants is \$15 for



adults, \$5 for children ages 5-10 and those 4 and younger are admitted at no cost with an adult.

Participants include Bahama Breeze, b.d.'s Mongolian Grill, Beyond Borders-Latin Street Food, Busch's Fresh Food Market, Cupcake Station, Detroit Jamz, Edible Arrangements, Grand Traverse Pie Company, Happy's Pizza & Ribs, Jamerican Grill, Jimmy John's Sandwich Shop, LaBistecca Italian Grille, Rocky's of Northville, Rusty Bucket, Scramblers, Station 885, Tony Sacco's Coal Oven Pizza, Vintner's Canton Winery, Westborn Market, Wok Asian Bistro of Northville and Zoup!

"We're really proud to be sponsoring this event. These restaurants and food and drink establishments donate all the food, as well as donate the time to prepare and serve. We are so thankful to them," said Civitan Kathy

Turnquist who helps organize the event.

All the funds made at the Taste Fest are used for the efforts of the Plymouth-Canton Civitan Club, which is celebrating 45 years of service to the community this year. The club donates to Special Olympics; provides scholarships; donates to The Devoted Barn a facility for abused animals; donates groceries to less fortunate families for Thanksgiving and Christmas; helps fund Multiple Sclerosis research; donates to Cooke School for special needs students, provides sanitizing products for elementary schools and helps provide holiday gifts for 125 children in foster care.

Civitans fund the cleaning of Ford Road between Lilley and Canton Center, provide flowers for Kellogg Park and are Salvation Army bell ringers. They pack food boxes for Focus Hope and organize and work at Camp Civitan, a camp for special needs children, along with their contributions to United Way.

Last year, the Civitans were honored as the Salvation Army Service Club of the Year.

Station 885 is located at 885 Starkweather, near the railway tracks, in Old Village. For more information, call Turnquist at (734)459-1896 or Costanza at (734) 459-0885.



Civitans members are all smiles waiting for crowds to enjoy the Plymouth Taste Fest last year.



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Taste of our town

Local restaurants serve community appetite and spirit

Plymouth has become a destination town for those looking for unique dining experiences, a great burger or a superior Coney Island Hot Dog. No doubt about it, Plymouth is a special and unique community and every year, for more than six decades, the Plymouth Fall Festival has proven that to residents and visitors. During this special event, civic groups, student organizations, churches and other charity efforts gather throughout the downtown to celebrate all that is Plymouth and attempt to raise funds for their various community causes.

What may be overlooked occasionally are some of the major donors to those efforts. Business owners who year after year donate their time, labor and cash to helping these organizations and groups help the community. These restaurant owners not only provide some of the finest dining and best meals available throughout the area, they give back to the community in ways many residents never realize.

These folks feed more than the appetites, they also help nourish the soul of the community with their continued support for civic causes.

Each and every one of them has a reputation for great food, specialty dishes and terrific service.

And they are each also known for the example they set of giving back to the community they serve. Visit them soon and enjoy!

E.G. Nick's
500 Forest Ave.
Plymouth
(734) 414-6400

One of the most popular places in town is always E.G. Nick's on Forest Street where owners Tony Belli and Frank Agostini are known for great food and for great entertainment all year.

E. G. Nicks boasts an extensive list of specially-brewed craft beers and unique cocktails, along with an impressive list of premium wines.

The menu includes items like the new Caprese ravioli, with a kale and pesto sauce that brings diners back again and again. The exceptional flatbread pizzas offer unique toppings like bacon, lettuce and tomato or Caesar salad along with the expected traditional pepperoni and cheeses. The exceptional flatbread crust on these treats has made them one of the biggest sellers on the late-night and lunch menu, Agostini said. The imaginative new dishes like the pear and spinach salad added to the menu have drawn rave reviews from regulars.

The menu still includes the customer-favorite planked whitefish, chosen as the best in the state by food critics and the award-winning spare ribs, Bang-Bang Shrimp and bourbon pot roast nachos.



Agostini said the menu includes several items which can be prepared gluten free and some vegan dishes, which are becoming more and more popular.

Local diners know that the kitchen often offers lunch specials, using fresh ingredients and weekends almost always include dinner specials, allowing Agostini to demonstrate some of the culinary creativity that he has displayed with his various TV appearances.

Meals range from \$10 to \$20 or so and are served in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere. The restaurant is known for the varied menu, family-friendly atmosphere and spirit of fun,

whether there is a festival going on or simply a celebration because it is Tuesday.

Greek Islands Eatery
306 South Main St.
Plymouth
(734) 335-6303

The Greek Island Restaurant located downtown on Main Street across from Kellogg Park is not just a typical Coney Island, although the Coneys made at Greek Island have rapidly become the favorite of many locals.

The menu includes American favorites along with many homemade

See **Restaurants**, page 36

Restaurants from page 35

Greek specialties including moussaka, pastitsio, spinach pie and gyros. They also serve a wide array of salads, pitas, sandwiches and burgers, all at great prices. There are American items and several specialty dishes on the menu.

The restaurant offers carry outs and has a banquet room and does catering.



The interior with paintings on the high ceilings draws admiring comments from visitors and the owners work at providing a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. The wait staff is always prompt and courteous and locals have come to depend on the quick service.

Greek Islands is also family friendly, offering accommodations for children and families.

Karl's Cabin
6005 Gotfredson Road
Plymouth
(734) 455-8450

Built in the 1940s, Karl's Cabin is truly a Michigan Made log cabin road-house restaurant, bar and grill. Located just minutes west of downtown Plymouth and just east of Ann Arbor, the restaurant is a favorite of patrons from throughout the area.

Guests can enjoy rustic charm, friendly service and a large menu including hand-cut grilled steaks, fresh

seafood, BBQ, fresh pasta, big salads, burgers, artisan sandwiches and daily chef-created features. Slow-roasted prime rib is served every Friday and Saturday night. Dinners are priced from \$8 to \$20 while lunch prices range from \$6-\$15.

The chef prefers to shop locally when feasible and often brings in organic and natural foods for a sub-



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karlscabin.com

stantial gluten free menu. Karl's offers 20 Michigan craft beers on draft including Bell's, Founders and Short's. The extensive wine list includes 60 wines to choose from with many wines from Michigan and more than 20 wines poured by the glass.

Karl's entertainment includes dueling pianos and live bands on the weekends.

The recently renovated interior has drawn lots of compliments from the regulars who highly recommend Karl's as offering some of the finest meals in the area.

Reservations are recommended.

LaBistecca Italian Grille
39405 Plymouth Road
Plymouth
(734) 254-0400

LaBistecca, a premier steak house and a favorite of diners throughout the area, offers a unique dining experience featuring Piedmontese Beef, which is recommended by the



American Heart Association, exclusively. The succulent and tender steaks bring area diners back again and again. Piedmontese Beef is famous for flavor and texture while having much less fat than regular beef. It offers all the enjoyment of fine steak without the guilt, owners noted.

An award-winning Wine Spectator wine list at LaBistecca is certain to

please every palate as diners relax in a well-appointed dining room and lounge. The restaurant is famous for offering a fine dining experience in a relaxed, yet elegant, atmosphere. Service is always excellent by a well-trained staff familiar with the menu and able to answer any questions diners might have.

The menu includes the house-made horseradish-flavored risotto and the unparalleled short-ribs, a favorite of local restaurant reviewers.

Live entertainment begins at 7 p.m. in the lounge Friday and Saturday.

Dinner is served beginning at 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and lunch service begins at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Reservations are recommended as this is one of the most popular places in the area with a well-earned reputation for excellence and superior quality.

See Restaurants, page 38




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Restaurants from page 37

Leo's Coney Island
41496 Ann Arbor Road
Plymouth, Mi
(734) 416-8200

The family recipe for the famous Greek Salad dressing along with the chili and other great homemade items has been the backbone of success for Leo's Coney Island. The Stassinopoulos brothers, Leo and Pete, have built a reputation for quality food and service.

Leo's Coney Island has evolved from a limited menu offering the basics of Coney Islands, fries, burgers and Greek Salads to a wide menu. Selections include a full line of items for the whole family including Greek specialties, breakfast, and a children's menu. Today, Leo's Famous Greek Salad Dressing can be found in specialty markets and local grocery stores. However, throughout the years, Leo's has not strayed from the formula of



serving the highest-quality products and giving great service to customers. Leo has made it his mission to provide the experience of a Coney Island, while also offering delicious homemade soups and family favorites.

Leo's is open from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. Sunday through Tuesday and 24 hours Wednesday through Saturdays.

The Inn at St. John's
44045 Five Mile Road at Sheldon Road
Plymouth
(734) 414-0600

The Inn at St. John's is a Plymouth jewel. This breathtaking landmark is the premier location for overnight stays, gourmet dining, corporate conferences, weddings, receptions, executive meetings, charity galas, and golf outings. Metro Detroit's fourth largest hotel in terms of total meeting space, St. John's welcomes both locals and travelers to experience a blend of comfort and luxury.

For an inspired dining experience in a chic, inviting atmosphere, make a date at 5ive Restaurant, located off the hotel lobby at The Inn at St. John's. Diners can enjoy a thoughtfully selected, award-winning wine list, extensive offering of local brews and al fresco dining on the terrace in season. 5ive Restaurant is open daily, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Visit www.theinnatstjohns.com to receive



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www.GeorgesSenateAndConeyIslandRestaurant.com

emails re: wine dinners, beer dinners and other special events, Reservations at: (734) 357-5700 or www.opentable.com.

For a napkin-testing burger, visit the vintage diner-style Burger Loft, located above The Inn at St. John's Pro Shop. Making burger history since summer 2013, the Burger Loft offers a fresh take on the motif of a classic burger joint. The menu includes crisp salads, house-cut fries, and, of course, burgers done right.

A house-made chocolate brownie, lofty cookie or old-school milkshake is the perfect way to conclude a dining experience.

The Burger Loft is ideal for business lunches, casual get-togethers and a "19th hole". Open during golf season from 4-9 p.m. on Mondays, and from 11:30 a.m. until 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. The loft is closed Sundays.



**George's Senate
Coney Island
39430 Dun Rovin Dr.
Northville,
(734) 927-1126**

George Dimopoulos has been delighting area diners since he opened his first restaurant in 1937. Dimopoulos prides himself on his tradition of welcoming service and a fun atmosphere, along with his expansive menu and great dishes.

George's menu features lamb shanks, lamb chops, and Greek standards, including Saganaki, Moussaka, Dolmades, Spanakopita and even a vegetable Pastitsio.

The creamy rice pudding is a traditional favorite at the restaurant and often brings patrons back again and again.

Beer, wine and liquor are available and the kitchen offers catering. The restaurant has locations in Taylor, Livonia and Dearborn in addition to Northville. George's has become a favorite place for breakfast, lunch and dinner with locals who enjoy the fast service, great food and atmosphere.



**Station 885
885 Starkweather
Old Village, Plymouth
(734) 459-0885**

Station 885 has become a tradition throughout the Plymouth area. After nearly three decades of serving great meals to families, they are obviously on the right track, according to owner Rob Costanza.

The Costanza family prides themselves on a fresh menu but never forgets the traditional dishes which have made Station 885 part of countless family events and celebrations

during the past 30 years.

They serve fresh Mama Mucci pasta and hand-cut steaks along with a selection of fresh fish.

Every Monday through Wednesday, the restaurant offers half-off prices on bottles of wine and there are lunch and dinner specials from the kitchen every day.

The restaurant is located adjacent to the railroad tracks in historic Old Village.

Station 885 is open from 11 a.m. until midnight Monday through Thursday and from 11 a.m. until 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

The restaurant also offers a special Sunday Brunch from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. which includes various breakfast items along with prime rib, fresh shrimp, salads, fruits and made-to-order crepes and omelets.

Station 885 also hosts the Civitans Taste Fest which begins at 6 p.m. Friday during the Fall Festival.

Station 885 has become a tradition throughout Plymouth during the 32 years the Costanza family has been a part of serving delicious meals to the community.



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